

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: KIM, Min-won

SERIAL NO.: 10/579,365

ART UNIT: 4153

FILED: May 15, 2006

EXAMINER: Mellon, D. C.

TITLE: FLUID FLOW INTERRUPTION MEANS FOR FILTER OF WATER PURIFIER

Amendment E: REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendments, amended Claims 7 and 8 remain. Reconsideration of the rejections, in light of the forgoing amendments and present remarks, is respectfully requested. The present amendments have been entered for the purpose of overcoming the previous informalities and also for the purpose of more clearly distinguishing the present invention from the prior art references.

In the Office Action, it was indicated that Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Nam et al publication in view of the Reid patent. Claims 7 and 8 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

As an overview to the present reply, Applicant has amended independent Claim 7. Independent Claim 7 now more clearly describes the invention and has been amended so as to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejection. So as to distinguish the present invention from the prior art combination, Applicant has included in independent Claim 7 that the filter body has "at least two through holes formed therein. . . said at least two through being spaced circumferentially around the filter body." On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner contends that the Nam publication shows

at least one through hole. In support, the Examiner refers Applicant to "channel and flow path." Applicant's attorney respectfully contends that it is unclear, referring to the "channel and flow path" how through holes are shown. Referring to Figure 1 of the Nam publication, the top end of the Nam filter body is shown. Referring to paragraph [0041] of the Nam publication, this "through hole" is described as "a flow space 9 which is defined between inner and outer cylindrical canisters 4 and 6 of the filter cartridge." Figure 1 does not appear to show any through holes as claimed by the Applicant. Referring to Figure 3 of the present application, the plurality of through holes 210 are shown. The plurality of through holes 210 are shown spaced circumferentially about the body. Paragraph [0023] of the present application describes the through holes 210, as follows:

Preferably, four through-holes are defined through the upper end of the filter body 200 such that they are spaced apart from one another by a predetermined angle in the circumferential direction of the filter body 200.

Independent Claim 7 also now includes a more detailed description of the O-ring and opening and closing body. The O-ring is now described as "abutting a protrusion" of the opening and closing body. The protrusion is supported by, amongst other things, Figure 4 of the present application. The protrusion and O-ring allow for better seating and sealing of the opening and closing body. The end of the opening and closing body is now described as having a rounded end. The rounded end of the opening and closing body also leads to better seating and sealing. The protrusion and rounded end of the opening and closing body are not shown in the prior art references.

Based upon the foregoing analysis, Applicant contends that Claim 7 is now in a proper condition for allowance. Additionally, the claim which is dependent upon Claim 7 should also be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the present claims

at an early date is earnestly solicited. Since no new claims have been added above those originally paid for, no additional fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date
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